GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:799
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
PMRDF
Girri Shri Maheish;Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Prime Minister Rural Development Fellowship Scheme (PMRDF);

(b) whether the scheme is still functional and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has consulted all stakeholders involved before scrapping the fellowship, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to initiate more such fellowship programmes to involve youth in the development of the country, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): The salient features of PMRDF scheme are as below:

i. Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship is a short term work opportunity for young professionals to serve and learn in backward/isolated areas of the country

ii. During the two-year fellowship period, fellows remain at the disposal of States and serve the district administration in improving programme delivery and interface with the marginalized section of the population. Immediately after successful completion of the fellowship, a fellow is required to spend at least one year in public service as an employee of the State Rural Livelihoods Mission.

iii. The scheme initially covered Integrated Action Plan districts of nine States. It was expanded to seven States in the North East as well as Jammu & Kashmir before the second batch of Fellows were recruited. Currently it covers IAP and backward districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Telangana, Tripura and West Bengal.

iv. Fellows are recruited through an open competition. Before being allocated to States, they undergo orientation training for a period not exceeding three months. During the fellowship, fellows also participate in a post graduate degree programme through distance learning and contact sessions, leading to a post graduate degree in development practice. An academic institution of national standing acts as the knowledge partner of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), with responsibility for recruitment, orientation, degree programme and on-field mentorship. Currently Tata Institute of Social Sciences is the knowledge partner of MoRD.

v. Fellows are paid stipend during their fellowship.

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c) : Does not arise in view of the reply given at (b) above.

(d): The Ministry is considering a proposal for recruitment of third batch of Fellows.

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